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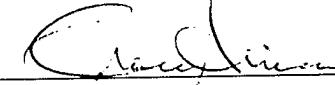
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Grace Alicea

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Date: May 3, 2002

DIALS, et al.

Serial No. 09/666,491

Group Art Unit: 2827

Filed: Sept. 18, 2000

Examiner: Dinh, Tuan T.

For: CARD INSULATOR AND RETENTION GUIDE FOR A COMPUTER
SYSTEM HAVING HOT PLUGABLE ADAPTER CARDS

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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RESPONSE

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 27, 2002, please enter the following
amendment and remarks in the present Application:

AMENDMENT

IN THE DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 6 with the following paragraph:

Please refer now to Figure 5. Figure 5 is an isometric view an information processing

81

system 300 in accordance with the present invention. The system 300 comprises a housing 314 wherein the housing 314 includes a first side 306 and a second side 316. A retention guide 308 in accordance with the present invention is coupled to the first side 306 and a steel chassis 318 is coupled to the second side 316. Figure 5 shows an inserted adapter card 310 and a first card insulator 312. Figure 5 also shows a second card insulator 302 in the process of being inserted into the retention guide 306 via the end portion 304.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims in the following manner:

A2
Sub B1

1. (Amended) An information processing system comprising:

a housing; and

a card insulator, the card insulator comprising:

a planar portion; and

a curved handle portion coupled to the planar portion, the handle portion

including a hooked element for coupling the card insulator to the housing.

2. (Amended) The information processing system of claim 1 wherein the housing comprises first and second sides wherein the first side is opposite the second side.

3. (Amended) The information processing system of claim 2 wherein the housing further comprises a chassis coupled to the first side and the curved handle portion is capable of being coupled to the chassis via the hooked element.

Please cancel claim 4.

Sub B3

8. (Amended) A card insulator, the card insulator comprising:
a planar portion; and
a curved handle portion coupled to the planar portion, the curved handle portion
including a hooked element for coupling the card insulator to an information processing
system.

9. (Amended) The card insulator of claim 8 wherein the information processing system
comprises a chassis and the curved handle portion is coupled to the chassis via the hooked
element.

Please cancel claim 10.

Alt 1

14. (Amended) An information processing system comprising:
a housing having first and second sides wherein the first side is opposite the second side;
a card insulator, the card insulator comprising:
a planar portion; and
a curved handle portion coupled to the planar portion, the curved handle portion
including a hooked element for coupling the card insulator to the first side of the housing;
and

A1
a retainer guide, the retainer guide coupled to the second side of the housing, the
retainer guide comprising;

B1
at least one slot for receiving the card insulator; and
a retainer lid hingedly coupled to the at least one slot for securing the card
insulator to the information processing system.

15. (Amended) The information processing system of claim 14 wherein the housing
further comprises a chassis coupled to the first side and the curved handle portion is capable of
being coupled to the chassis via the hooked element.

A5
Please cancel claim 16.

A5
17. (Amended) The information processing system of claim 15 wherein the card
insulator comprises an end portion and the at least one slot supports the entire end portion.

A4
19. (Amended) An information processing system comprising:

A4
a housing having first and second sides wherein the first side is opposite the
second side and the housing further comprises a chassis coupled to the first side;

Sub A4
a card insulator, the card insulator comprising:

B4
a planar portion

B4
a curved handle portion coupled to the planar portion, the curved handle
portion including a hooked element for coupling the card insulator to the

AC

chassis; and
an end portion coupled to the planar portion; and
a retainer guide, the retainer guide coupled to the second side of the
housing, the retainer guide comprising;
at least one slot for receiving the entire end portion of the card insulator;
and
a retainer lid hingedly coupled to the at least one slot for securing the card
insulator to the information processing system wherein the retainer lid
hingedly rotates from an open position to a closed position.

REMARKS

This Response is in response to the Office Action dated March 27, 2002. Claims 1-19 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 17 and 19 have been amended for clarification. Claims 4, 10 and 16 have been canceled. Claims 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 17, 18 and 19 remain pending. For the reasons set forth more fully below, Applicant respectfully submits that the remaining claim is allowable. Consequently reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

The present invention in varying scope of the independent claims is an information processing system. The information system comprises a housing, a card insulator, and a card insulator guide. The card insulator comprises a planar portion, a curved handle portion coupled to the planar portion, the curved handle portion including a securing element for securing the card insulator to the housing.

Claim Objections

The Examiner states:

Claims 2, 14 are objected to because of the following informalities:
Claim 2, lines 1-2, change "a first and second side" to – first and second sides-
Claim 14, line 2, change "a first and second side" to – first and second sides-
Claim 19, line 2, change "a first and second side" to – first and second sides-
Appropriate correction is required.

Applicant asserts that claims 2, 14 and 19 have been amended to address the above referenced informalities.

35 USC §112 Rejections

The Examiner states:

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 3, lines 1-2 it is unclear. What does applicant mean of "the first side of the housing comprises a chassis"? Does applicant mean of "one side can be formed a chassis"?

Applicant asserts that claim 3 has been amended to address the above referenced informalities. Specifically, claim 3 has been amended to recite "...wherein the housing further comprises a chassis coupled to the first side...".

35 USC §102 Rejections

For ease of review, independent claims 1 and 8 are reproduced herein below:

1. An information processing system comprising:
a housing; and
a card insulator, the card insulator comprising:
a planar portion; and
a curved handle portion coupled to the planar portion, the curved handle portion including a hooked element for coupling the card insulator to the housing.

8. A card insulator, the card insulator comprising:
a planar portion; and
a curved handle portion coupled to the planar portion, the curved handle portion including a hooked element for coupling the card insulator to an information processing system.

The Examiner states:

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Grosser et al. (U.S. Patent #6,118,667).

As to claims 1 and 8, Grosser discloses an information processing system (200, column 3, line 31) as shown in Figures 1-2 comprising:

a housing (201 column 3, line 34); and
a card insulator (100, column 3, line 10), the card insulator comprising:
a planar portion (101, column 3, line 11); and
a handle portion (a side member having an edge 101b) coupled to the planar portion, the handle portion including a hooked element (top portion of

the handle-see figure 1) for coupling the card insulator to the housing.

As to claim 2, Grosser discloses an information-processing system as shown in figure 2 wherein the housing (201) comprises first and second sides (201a, 201b, column 3, line 34) wherein the first side is opposite the second side.

As best understood to claims 3 and 9, Grosser discloses an information-processing system as shown in figure 2 further comprising a chassis (formed by two sides 201a, 201b), and the handle portion is coupled to the chassis via the hooked element.

As to claims 4 and 10, Grosser discloses an information-processing system as shown in figure 1 wherein the handle portion comprises a curved portion (upper curve of the edge 101b).

Claims 1 and 8

Applicant disagrees with this rejection. The present invention in varying scope of the independent claims has been amended to recite an information processing system comprising a housing, a card insulator, and a card insulator guide. The card insulator comprises a planar portion, *a curved handle portion* coupled to the planar portion, the curved handle portion including a securing element for securing the card insulator to the housing.

Grosser discloses a removable card insulator and guide that prevents inadvertent shorting during the insertion or removal of an adapter card into a "hot-plug" computer system. The card insulator includes perpendicular first and second planar portions. When installed in a computer system, the first planar portion is positioned perpendicular to the motherboard, and the second planar portion is positioned parallel to the motherboard such that any components on the motherboard are positioned between the second planar portion and the motherboard. The second planar portion includes a slot through which an adapter card connector can be passed to mate with a connector on the motherboard.

The Examiner asserts that the card insulator 100 of Grosser includes a handle portion, i.e. a side member having an edge 101b (see Figure 1 of Grosser, attached Exhibit A). However, the

present invention, has been amended to recite "...a curved handle portion coupled to the planar portion..". The curved handle portion 104 of the present invention is designed to facilitate easier installation of the card insulator 100 and is clearly seen in Figure 2 (see attached Exhibit B) of applicant's above-referenced patent application. The edge 101b, as disclosed in Grosser, is substantially straight and does not in anyway constitute a curved handle. It is simply an opposing edge of the planar portion 101 (See Grosser, col. 3, lines 14-15). Applicant accordingly asserts that the curved handle portion of the present invention is clearly different from the edge 101b, as disclosed in Grosser.

Consequently, since the curved handle portion of the present invention is clearly different from the edge 101b, as disclosed in Grosser, Applicant asserts that the Grosser reference neither teaches or suggest the combination of elements recited in claims 1 and 8. Therefore, since the Grosser reference fails to teach or suggest the combination of elements recited in independent claims 1 and 8, the recited invention is allowable over the Grosser reference.

Claims 2, 3 and 9

Since claims 2, 3 and 9 are respectively dependent on claims 1 and 8, the above-articulated arguments related to claims 1 and 8 apply with equal force to claims 2, 3 and 9. Accordingly, claims 2, 3 and 9 are allowable over this reference.

35 USC §103 Rejections

For ease of review, independent claim 14 is reproduced herein below:

14. An information processing system comprising:
a housing having first and second sides wherein the first side is opposite the second side;

a card insulator, the card insulator comprising:

- a planar portion; and
- a curved handle portion coupled to the planar portion, the curved handle portion including a hooked element for coupling the card insulator to the first side of the housing; and
- a retainer guide, the retainer guide coupled to the second side of the housing, the retainer guide comprising:

 - at least one slot for receiving the card insulator; and
 - a retainer lid hingedly coupled to the at least one slot for securing the card insulator to the information processing system.

19. An information processing system comprising:

- a housing having first and second sides wherein the first side is opposite the second side and the housing further comprises a chassis coupled to the first side;
- a card insulator, the card insulator comprising:

 - a planar portion; and
 - a curved handle portion coupled to the planar portion, the curved handle portion including a hooked element for coupling the card insulator to the chassis; and
 - an end portion coupled to the planar portion; and
 - a retainer guide, the retainer guide coupled to the second side of the housing, the retainer guide comprising:

 - at least one slot for receiving the entire end portion of the card insulator; and
 - a retainer lid hingedly coupled to the at least one slot for securing the card insulator to the information processing system wherein the retainer lid hingedly rotates from an open position to a closed position.

The Examiner states:

Claims 14 –19 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being anticipated by Grosser et al. (U.S. Patent #6,118,667) in view of Haughton et al. (U.S. Patent 5,982,627).

As to claims 14-19, Grosser discloses an information processing system (200) as shown in Figures 1-2 comprising:

a housing (201) having first and second sides (201a, 201b-Figure 2) wherein the first side is opposite the second side;

a card insulator (100), the card insulator comprising:

a planar portion (101); and

a handle portion (a side member having an edge 101b) having a curve (upper edge of the handle) coupled to the planar portion, the handle portion including a hooked (top portion of the handle) element for coupling the card insulator to the first side of the housing;

an end portion (side part having edge 101a) coupled to the planar portion (101); and

a retainer guide (206; 207, column 3, lines 37, 40), the retainer guide coupled to the second side of the housing, the retainer guide comprising:

at least one slot (figure 2) for receiving the card insulator (100, column 3,

lines 37-55).

Grosser does not show a retainer lid hingedly coupled to the at least one slot and rotated from an open position to a closed position.

Haughton show a retainer guide (180-figure 1A) having a retainer lid (144) hingedly coupled to the at least one slot (120) and rotated from open to closed positions (see figures 2-4).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a lid of a retainer as taught by Haughton to employ the system of Grosser in order to provide a lock or unlock a circuit board (or card insulator) when inserted or removed from the system.

Claims 14 and 19

Applicant disagree with the Examiner's rejection. The recited invention of claim 14 comprises an information processing system that includes a housing, a card insulator, and a card insulator guide. The card insulator comprises a planar portion, *a curved handle portion* coupled to the planar portion, the curved handle portion including a securing element for securing the card insulator to the housing.

As previously stated above, Grosser discloses a removable card insulator and guide that prevents inadvertent shorting during the insertion or removal of an adapter card into a "hot-plug" computer system. The card insulator includes perpendicular first and second planar portions. When installed in a computer system, the first planar portion is positioned perpendicular to the motherboard, and the second planar portion is positioned parallel to the motherboard such that any components on the motherboard are positioned between the second planar portion and the motherboard. The second planar portion includes a slot through which an adapter card connector can be passed to mate with a connector on the motherboard.

The Examiner concedes that the Grosser reference does not disclose a retainer lid hingedly coupled to the retainer guide and rotated from an open position to a closed position.

The Examiner then argues that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Grosser with Haughton so as to provide an information processing system with a retainer lid hingedly coupled to the retainer guide and rotated from an open position to a closed position. Applicant respectfully disagrees and asserts that the Examiner's proposed combination of references does not teach or suggest the combination of elements recited in independent claims 14 and 19 of the present invention.

Haughton discloses a system wherein a frame is provided at the front end of an adapter card receiving area of a personal computer which includes card guides and a flex bar for retaining inserted cards. The system further comprises a dual function blocking member which has opposed blocking surfaces so arranged that they retain the bar respectively in a lock and open position.

Without commenting as to whether the Examiner's proposed combination of Grosser with Haughton could provide an information processing system with a retainer lid hingedly coupled to the retainer guide and rotated from an open position to a closed position, Applicant herein reiterates the above-stated argument with regard to Grosser. Accordingly, the curved handle portion of the present invention is clearly different from the edge 101b, as disclosed in the Grosser reference. Consequently, Grosser does not disclose a curved handle portion as recited in the present invention.

Therefore, since Grosser does not disclose a curved handle portion as recited in the present invention, the Examiner's proposed combination of Grosser with Haughton does not disclose a curved handle portion as recited in the present invention. Accordingly, the Examiner's proposed combination of Grosser with Haughton does not teach the combination of

elements recited in claims 14 and 19. Claims 14 and 19 are therefore allowable of the Examiner's combination of references.

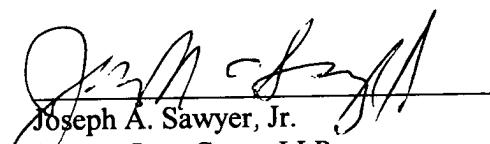
Claims 15, 17, and 18

Since claims 15, 17, and 18 are respectively dependent on claim 14, the above-articulated arguments related to claim 14 apply with equal force to claims 15, 17, and 18. Accordingly, claims 15, 17, and 18 are allowable over these references.

Attached hereto and captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made" is a marked-up version of the changes made to the abstract by the current amendment.

Accordingly, Applicant's attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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